# MESSIAH MESSENGER 2025



Dear Messiah Lutheran Church and friends,

I was born with an anomaly in my heart. I was informed of this just last week. One of the vessels that feeds the heart takes an abnormal path through the wall of and between the two main pipes at the top of the heart. The supply of blood to my heart is being pinched each time my heart beats and it is not receiving

enough blood to function properly. I have been experiencing what I now know is my right ventricle telling me this, through palpitations and chest tightness.

Thankfully, this condition, although very rare, has been fixed through open-heart surgery in many patients and I am an ideal candidate. Surgery is scheduled for Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Joe's. The recovery will be long and extensive, and I will be in the ICU for 3-5 days. I will then spend 8-12 weeks recovering at home. The last things I will be able to bring back into my life are preaching and exercise. But do not worry, I am already working on my June 1<sup>st</sup> sermon.

I thank you in advance for your prayers and care for me and my family. I know I have visited many of you in the hospital in your time of need. Unfortunately, you will not be able to return the favor as I will not be allowed visitors. During my absence, please do not be alarmed if I do not answer calls or return text messages. Rest assured that the Hoover Family has a great support network both inside and outside of the church.

I regret the suddenness of this situation, but I leave you, temporarily, in the good hands of our leadership and staff. You will hear more details about the coverage plans on Sunday. I encourage you to remain engaged in the church during my temporary absence. You get out of church what you put into it. Your presence and engagement are the work of God through the church. The absence of a pastor will not change what God has already been doing in your life through Messiah Lutheran Church.

And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." Luke 5:10 (ESV)

Can you picture this well-documented exchange between Jesus and Peter? Maybe you have felt afraid or anxious when you encounter God. Jesus says to you as He says to us this morning - from now on your most important work will be the appeal I make through you.

My first recollection of hearing this saying comes from Sunday School as a kid. I remember all the children laughing together as we thought about trying to catch a person with a fishing pole. I remember later, in Youth Group, talking about the ancient Chinese proverb,

"Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime."

I may have blended those two sayings over the years.

I somehow got the idea that what Jesus was saying to Peter and me was that He needs us to do this faith stuff on our own. Jesus is going to teach us how to be like him, so we don't need his help.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Peter "caught men" because he was following Christ and received the promised Holy Spirit. Peter never proved himself to Jesus, he wasn't independent of Jesus. Peter was dependent on God.

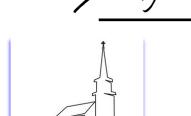
One is a *theology of glory*, independence from God. The other is a *theology of the Cross*, dependence on God.

Nothing in your life is a mystery to God. Each hardship and each victory are designed to create His presence and your dependence on that presence. At no time is God dependent on us and our response to His Grace. God truly does have the whole world in his hands.

All this to say – that something as scary as being born with a heart condition most certainly could have taken my life. This does not make me doubt God's design. Although I would have liked my heart to at least follow the pattern He used with most everyone else, I am at complete peace with the need for open-heart surgery.

I do regret being a burden on my family and my church family. I am also growing in a sense of peace and wonder at how God will show up in this time.

In anticipation of what God does next,



## IMPORTANT INFO FROM BUILDING LIAISON KATE RICHMOND

#### **Volunteers needed:**

- Cleanup crew after Wednesday Night Dinner (wipe down tables and wash dishes)
- Table setup Monday and Saturday evenings
- Take down tables Wednesdays and Fridays @ 6 p.m.

Sign up for regular weekly setup (or even just once a month). Every set of hands helps! Email <a href="mailto:bulding@mlcjoliet.org">bulding@mlcjoliet.org</a> to sign up or for more information.

Thank you for serving!

#### PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Lenten Soup Suppers begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, and continue through April 9<sup>th</sup>. Each PPC Board & Committee is in charge of a soup supper which will include soup, bread, desserts & drinks. Sometimes a board will do pizzas or something else. Suppers start at 5:30 p.m. with worship at 7 p.m.

If you are not a board or committee member, we are asking for your help providing food. There is a sign up board in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please call me with any questions.

Parish Fellowship is still looking for help. We have a small committee and even if you can only help once in a while , we would love to have you! I'm blessed to have a small, but wonderful, team! Thank you!

## - Terry Anzalone

Parish Fellowship Director 815-531-9781







#### Can't make it to church this week?

The 9:30 a.m. service is live-streamed online on our Facebook and YouTube pages. Links to both are at <a href="mlcjoliet.org/worship">mlcjoliet.org/worship</a> (please scroll to the bottom of the page). You can also view or print the bulletin, if you'd like to follow along!





#### **Giving Statements**

Please help Messiah be greener and consider switching your statement delivery method from US Mail to <u>EMAIL</u>.

Call the church office if you'd like to do this!

## FOR THE LADIES OF MESSIAH





Please note <u>change of date & venue!</u>

An evening full of laughter,

learning, stories & music!

Reach out to Sherri Unyi in the church office or by email at <u>bookkeeper@mlcjoliet.org</u>.



#### JOLET AREA CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONNECTION

You and your friends are invited to Joliet Christian Women's February luncheon in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, **March 19<sup>th</sup>**, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., \$20.00 inclusive. Guest, Monica Shaw, will share history, traditions and trivia about St. Patrick's Day. Speaker, Phihang Nguyen, will share, "A Voice from Vietnam," an immigrant's triumphant story.

RSVP by March 12<sup>th</sup> by contacting Barb at 815-439-2076 or <a href="mailto:mrs.brutus56@gmail.com">mrs.brutus56@gmail.com</a>, or call Sonya at 815-727-1626. Like them on Facebook at "Joliet IL Christian Women's Connection." <a href="https://www.stonecroft.org/">https://www.stonecroft.org/</a>

## MESSIAH KIDZ CLUB HAPPENINGS! (K-5TH GRADE)

Parents of children (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade) can join the Messiah Kids Remind group by texting the code mlcmk to 81010, or by going to:

https://www.remind.com/join/mlcmk

It will be used to send reminders and notifications about Sunday School and any events we have planned.

#### J-CHURCH

J-Church is one of our ministries for kids and youth of all ages and takes place during the 11:00 a.m. service the <u>third Sunday</u> of every month in the FLC! (This ministry replaced MK11 in October 2024.) Please sign up in the Narthex. We meet next on **March 16**<sup>th</sup>.



#### Kindergarten – 5th grade:

Join us on Wednesday nights, 6:30-8 p.m.

**Questions?** Contact Beth Hohisel at <a href="mailto:bhohisel@hotmail.com">bhohisel@hotmail.com</a> or 815-735-7897.

remind

#### **MESSIAH'S YOUTH CHOIR**

The Children's Choir will rehearse on March 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, and will perform on **March 30<sup>th</sup>** at the 9:30 service. In **April** we will rehearse on the 6<sup>th</sup> and have our final performance this season on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Reach out to Season Lawler for more info.

## Attention Parents! MARCH YOUTH CHOIR DATES



March choir rehearsals will be 03/16 and 03/23.

We perform on 03/30 at the 9:30 service.

Please be sure members wear their choir shirts on performance dates!

#### MILE MARKERS

Fourth grade: "First Communion"

Sessions: March 16th, 23rd, 30th, April 6th & 13th (Sunday School)

Breaking Bread: Messiah kitchen, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. First Communion: Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m.

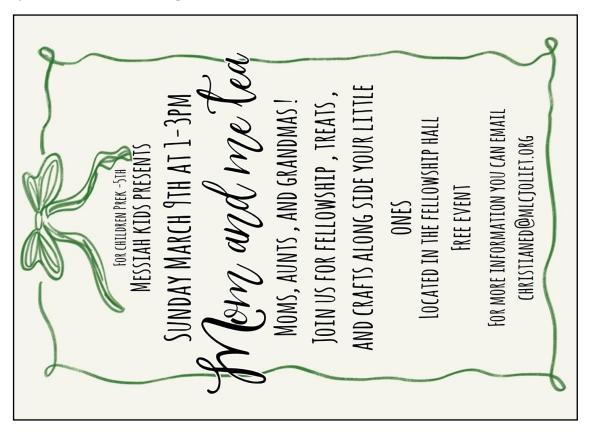


#### NERF BATTLE FOR DADS & DUDES

March 29<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m. in the FLC... Bring your best foam flinging gun and safety glasses and join us for some fun! Foam darts will be provided, as well as a limited number of safety glasses for the kids. Popcorn and refreshments also provided!

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday school for pre-K-5<sup>th</sup> grades is upstairs at 9:30 a.m.





For more info on ministries for kids pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, email Leslie McFarland, Children's Min. Director, at <a href="mailto:childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org">childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org</a> or Kimber Drummond, Christian Ed. Director, at <a href="mailto:christianed@mlcjoliet.org">christianed@mlcjoliet.org</a>.

## MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6TH-12TH GRADE)

Be sure to sign up for <u>Messiah Student Ministries</u> on the Remind app to keep up to date on this and other upcoming events. Use this link:

https://www.remind.com/join/messiahst or use class code @messiahst within the app.

#### **BIBLE STUDY**

Sunday morning Bible Study meets at 9:30. 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders meet in the youth room and high schoolers are currently joining in with the Insight group, with a breakout session in classroom 101.

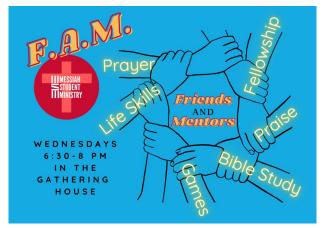
#### **DODGEBALL**



#### FRIENDS AND MENTORS (F.A.M.)

A ministry for high school students and recent graduates. F.A.M. is a chance to connect with peers and those who have navigated the path ahead of you, to learn life skills and other lessons learned along the way.

We play games, learn practical life skills, pray for each other, sing praise and more! YOU belong here!



#### HEAD 2 HEART (H2H)

H2H (otherwise known as Confirmation) meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. All 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome! This year's H2H session will wrap up on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

For more info on ministries for students 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, email Kersten Stier, Youth Director, at <a href="mailto:stumin@mlcjoliet.org">stumin@mlcjoliet.org</a>.

## OPPORTUNITIES - GET INVOLVED!

#### ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

We meet in Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings at 9:30. Our current series, which will continue into spring, is being led by Kenyon Gjerde and Tom Bond. We'd love to have you join us!

#### <u>ALTAR FLOWERS - SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX</u>

Our Altar flowers sign up chart is on the Connect Wall in the Narthex (outside the Fireside Room). If you'd like to help beautify our Sanctuary and sponsor Altar flowers in honor of a special occasion or to memorialize someone important in your life, please sign up. Arrangements are \$25 each.

#### DAYBREAK SHELTER



Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to needy people at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5:30-7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Food donations are also needed. Sign up in the Narthex or online at: mlcjoliet.org/life-groups Messiah members will be serving at Daybreak on Monday, March 10th.

#### **FAITH & BODY THURSDAYS**

Faith & Body meets on Thursday mornings from 9-10. All are welcome! This is a great way to start a healthy routine for 2025! Please register here:

https://messiahlutheranchurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2426227

#### **FIRESIDE CHATS**



Want to know more about the people behind the scenes at Messiah? Well, here it is! We've created a series of podcasts interviewing staff members, and a new episode will be released every few weeks. These may be found on our website https://www.mlcjoliet.org/fireside-chats. Next season, interviewing some of our board members and having their voices heard as to what they hope to accomplish in their time as leaders at Messiah!



We welcome spring on

#### LIL LOVES MINISTRY



Lil Loves at Messiah aims to come alongside underserved parents and babies in the area by providing **FREE** assistance with diapers and much needed baby supplies. Lil Loves is available on a by-appointment basis, and those interested can sign up on our website.

Lil Loves thanks you for your donations of:

\*Diapers and Pull-ups \*Wipes \*Baby Wash/Shampoo \*Baby Lotion

Trial-sized toiletry items are especially appreciated, rather than full-sized. If you'd like to donate, please place your items in the black bin in the Narthex. Call the church office for more information. Our Lil Loves ministry helped with <u>well over 100</u> care packages in 2024, thanks to your loving generosity!

Please note Lil Loves is

#### NO LONGER ABLE TO ACCEPT BABY FORMULA OR USED CLOTHING.

These items are happily accepted at the Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center. You may deliver them to: 903 Infantry Dr., Suite 600, in Joliet.





#### **MEMORY BEARS**

Messiah's Memory Bears Group meets here at the church from 9 a.m.-noon once a month (sometimes twice!) to make stuffed teddy bears out of the clothing of people who have passed away, to comfort the grieving. We would love to have you join us! We have jobs that do not require sewing. Text Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 or email regency118@comcast.net for more info.

#### MESSIAH MEN'S MINISTRY (3M)

Men, mark your calendars... Our men's Bible study group meets the second and fourth Tuesday evening every month. On **March 11**<sup>th</sup> & **25**<sup>th</sup> we will be studying the book of Exodus. Email Mike Brown at <a href="mailto:gonzopal2017@cheerful.com">gonzopal2017@cheerful.com</a> for more info.

#### MICRO PANTRY

Did you know that Messiah has a food pantry? This ministry is 100% donation-driven, and is maintained by the Evangelism Board. You can support this ministry through prayer, and through monetary and/or non-perishable food donations. Please leave your donations in the bin in the Narthex. EXPIRED ITEMS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

#### **MLC OFFICE HOURS**

The office is staffed Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and evenings are by appointment.

#### OWLS (Older, Wiser Loving Seniors)

Our next luncheon is on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Sign up in the Narthex to let us know what finger-food, appetizer, desert, salad, etc. you will bring to share. Corned beef sliders will be provided. We hope to see you on **March 11**<sup>th</sup>!

<sup>\*</sup>Toiletry items for the moms such as deodorant, toothpaste, feminine hygiene, etc.

#### **PRAY JOLIET**

Pray Joliet's spring prayer gathering Sunday, **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**, from 6-8 p.m. at Mosaic Community Church at 191 S. Larkin. The theme is, "Pray Like Daniel." See what happens when we close our eyes and pray together!

#### PRAYER CHAIN



Messiah uses an email-based (not in-person) Prayer Chain made up of people willing to pray for our members, community and nation in times of crisis. Prayers are shared amongst the group via email, and are confidential and anonymous as much as possible. Text Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 or email regency118@comcast.net for more info.

#### PRAYER TEAM

Our in-person Prayer Team meets Thursday mornings at 10:15 in the Fireside Room for approximately one hour, to pray together over our prayer request list. For more info text Cindi Souza at 815-931-8478 or by email to <a href="mailto:regency118@comcast.net">regency118@comcast.net</a>, or Beth Hohisel at <a href="mailto:bhohisel@hotmail.com">bhohisel@hotmail.com</a>.

#### **PUBLICATION DEADLINES**

Just a friendly reminder that **Sunday bulletin** material must be received in the front office by the end of the day each Tuesday. Material for the **newsletter** is due the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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#### **OUILTERS**

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) began in 1945 and for over 80 years has helped people around the world in 136 countries, not only with quilts and fabric kits but also with school kits, personal care kits and baby care kits. In 2024 alone, LWR provided 370,818 kits in 16 countries (including the USA) and 5,568 fabric kits. For 33 years (since 1992), Messiah Quilters have been a part of that - sending over 2,800 quilts and 150 fabric kits to LWR. Our quilts/fabric kits ship out of the Maryland warehouse and, in 2024, were part of shipments to Angola, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and the United States. You can see more about this in the information posted in the Narthex. A huge "thank you" to all our current quilters and all those of the past 33 years, that have made our quilting mission here at Messiah so rewarding.

Messiah Quilters will meet on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. We have a lot of quilts ready to complete and if you can tie a knot, you can help us out. We even have jobs you can do sitting down. Think about stopping in to see what we do. You do not have to stay the entire time - whatever time you can give is appreciated. If you are unable to join us and would like to sew at home, we have kits available with instructions that show how easy it is to put a quilt top together. Contact Kathy Mueller at 815-953-6601 or <a href="mailto:scpbklane@aol.com">scpbklane@aol.com</a> for more information. We hope to see you on **March 18<sup>th</sup>!** 

#### SANCTUARY CHOIR



Our Sanctuary Choir sings on Sunday mornings at the 9:30 service, September through May. When the Children's Choir is performing, we sing at the 8:00 service. Rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings from 7:15-8:45. We are always looking for new members!

For more information please contact Herb Alexander, Sanctuary Choir Director, at halex12240@gmail.com.



Stay-N-Play is every Tuesday morning from 9:30-11, when we open our Family Life Center to the community for FREE open gym time for children five and under. It's a great place for caregivers and children to make connections with other caregivers, and to have a safe place for children to play. Please like our Facebook page (MLC Stay-n-Play Playgroup) for additional information and share with your friends and neighbors!

#### STROLLER FIT MOM'S CLUB

Attention moms with stroller-aged children! Bring your littles with you in the stroller for an opportunity to socialize & GET EXERCISE with other like-minded moms! We generally meet every-other Friday morning at the church from 9:30-10:30. We will walk outdoors, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, we will move into the Family Life Center. We meet next on **March 14**th (just once in March). Please reach out to Season Lawler at <a href="mailto:seasonsummer4@aol.com">seasonsummer4@aol.com</a> for more information.

#### **WAYS TO GIVE**

We will have an offering time during the services, but you can give any time during the week using one of the following ways:

- 1) Go to: bit.ly/MLCGiving
- 2) Download the Church Center app on your phone or tablet and follow the instructions given.
- 3) Text your dollar amount (with a dollar sign in front of it) to 84321.
- 4) Mail your check to the church at: 40 Houbolt Rd., Joliet, IL 60431

#### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

See page 5 for upcoming events for the ladies of Messiah!



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



- **3** Terry & Joy McClintock
- 6 Paul & Shannon Capps
- 7 Gerry & Pat Boe
- 12 Leonard & Lisa Winters



- 1 Jaime Dykstra
- 2 Janice Holmes
- 3 William Johnke Ryan Kittler Prudencia Moore Ken Skinner
- 4 Jerry Buchenau
- 6 David Nygard Katie Snider
- 7 Kathy Sievers
- 9 Matthew Fiday Doug Hawkinson Randy Rzeszutko
- 13 Pat Burke
- 14 Angie Mitchka
- **15** Rowan Hedden Michael Poole
- 16 Roger Gordon
- 19 Leah Melton

- 20 Eva Hauge Dominic Hester
- 24 Samuel Remus
- 25 Julie Bajt
- 27 Anita Schultz
- 29 Gabi Anderson Ray Anderson Jeanette Wegemer
- 30 Barb Culinovic

## **MARCH SERVERS**

Cou	ınte	rs
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	Counters		
03/02/25	Gayle Arko, Wayne Lauffer		1
03/09/25	Stan Buhr, Joy McClintock		
03/16/25	Judy Fowler, Deb Dole		
03/23/25	Ken Skinner, Dan Stukel		
03/30/25	Gayle Arko, Wayne Lauffer		
			Readers 8:00
	Ushers 8:00	03/02/25	Deb Dole
03/02/25	Jerry Buchenau, Dan Stukel	03/09/25	Paul Allen
03/09/25	Paul Allen, Don Cyborski	03/16/25	Greg Dole
03/16/25	Wayne Lauffer, Bob Miller	03/23/25	Laurel Ling
03/23/25	Craig Stone, Don Cyborski	03/30/35	Randy Ling
03/30/25	two needed	, ,	, C
			Readers 9:30
	Ushers 9:30	03/02/25	Doug Potts
03/02/25	Bill Unyi, one needed	03/09/25	Jeff Holmes
03/09/25	Jeff Holmes, Alan Costello	03/16/25	Jane Costello
03/16/25	Roger Gordon, Josh Johnke	03/23/25	Sherri Unyi
03/23/25	Alan Costello, one needed	03/30/35	Jane Costello
03/30/25	two needed		
			Readers 11:00
	Ushers 11:00	03/02/25	Tom Bond
03/02/25	Gary Phillips, one needed	03/09/25	needed
03/09/25	Tom & Tammie Eigenbauer	03/16/25	needed
03/16/25	Gary Phillips, one needed	03/23/25	needed
03/23/25	Darryl Hoelscher, one needed	03/30/35	needed
03/30/25	two needed		
_			Greeters 8:00
	mmunion Assistants 8:00	03/02/25	Pat & Gerry Boe
03/02/25	Randy & Laurel Ling,	03/09/25	Nancy Bertnik, Wayne Lauffer
	Pat Anderson	03/16/25	Bev Korby, one needed
03/09/25	Marvina Allen, Bev Korby,	03/23/25	Gerry & Pat Boe
	Deb Dole	03/30/35	Kirk Brandmire, one needed
03/16/25	Paul & Marvina Allene,		
00 (00 (05	Greg Dole		Greeters 9:30
03/23/25	three needed	03/02/25	two needed
03/30/25	three needed	03/09/25	Karen Rebuehr, one needed
•		03/16/25	Beth Hohisel, one needed
	mmunion Assistants 9:30	03/23/25	two needed
03/02/25	Rowan Hedden, Doug Potts,	03/30/35	two needed
00/40/05	Linda Hallberg		
03/16/25	Jane Costello, two needed		Greeters 11:00
0		03/02/25	two needed
	nmunion Assistants 11:00	03/09/25	two needed
03/02/25	Terry Anzalone,	03/16/25	two needed
00/40/05	Darryl Hoelscher, one needed	03/23/25	Roger & Carol Gordon
03/16/25	Terry Anzalone, two needed	03/30/35	two needed

Help us beautify
the sanctuary
with lilies this Easter!
Fill out the form
below to order
your Easter lily.

Deadline to order is March 23th



Name	
Phone	
Number of Lilies (cost per lily \$15)	
Total Amount	
In Honor/Memory of	

# Easter Lily

\*Please make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church and mark "Lilies" on the memo line. Thank you!

For	Office	Use
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Ck # Amt





40 Houbolt Rd. Joliet, IL 60431 (815) 741-4488

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Associate Pastor: vacant
Bookkeeper Sherri Unyi
Building Liaison Kate Richmond
Children's Choir Director Season Lawler
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland
Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann

Organist Rose Ann Sochan Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander Tech Coordinator Nikolai Stier Youth Director Kersten Stier Worship Coordinator Justin Brown Worship Intern Fay Werner

815-741-4488



info@mlcjoliet.org